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unwanted pregnancy. For many young women, teen pregnancy is a virtual guarantee of poverty and long-term reliance on welfare. Most teen mothers drop out of high school and remain single most of their adult years, young adult years. And, again, they only make \$5,600 a year. The most significant risk factor relating to early onset of delinquency is poor academic performance. These girls just think they are stupid. They are told they are stupid. Whatever comes out of their mouth, they are told you don't have any sense and whatever you think and whatever you feel and whatever you say is of no consequence.

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR SUTTLE: Girls who are juvenile offenders may have reacted to academic challenges by skipping school or dropping out. When you are told enough times that you're stupid you start thinking maybe you are. Because academic failure is so closely linked to underemployment and unemployment, it's a risk factor that must be addressed for female delinquents if they are to avoid a life of impoverished opportunities. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Suttle. Senator Thompson, on AM1526.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to refer, at this point, to a U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, more commonly known as OJJDP fact sheet. It's entitled "Juvenile Court Placement of Adjudicated Youth, 1988 to 1997". And I think this historically puts in context why we're here and the magnitude of these issues. And I'm not without sympathy for the department, for their frustration, but I'm also not without sympathy for the courts and probation and other people who contacted me on this, and service providers who contacted me on this issue for their frustration. And because this is a frustrating issue for both sides, and I realize many of you probably don't get a lot of calls because this is a technical area and people from the general public may not be as